

**Go With The Flow Program** (aka-Blue Communities) (CRWA has a trade-marked Blue Cities program that could easily be confused with a Blue Communities Program, hence the name change)

An incentive based program to protect, enhance and restore rivers and streams in Massachusetts

CONCEPTUAL PLAN-Draft 8-31-10

**Eligibility:** Cities and Towns in Massachusetts are eligible to seek Go with the Flow status. To be accepted into the Program and be eligible to receive program incentives and rewards a City or Town must:

1. Adopt by ordinance, bylaw or local regulation, Low Impact Development (LID) techniques as the preferred method for new development projects and new municipal projects.
2. Prepare an integrated water resources management plan (IWRMP) for the municipality that meets the minimum requirements for such plans as described elsewhere in the Go with the Flow Program. (To be developed)

Cities and towns that complete these prerequisites may file for Go with the Flow status. Upon approval of the LID rules and IWRMP by the approving agency (to be determined) Go with the Flow status shall be conferred and all awards and incentives shall be available for a 5 year period.

To maintain Go with the Flow status following the initial 5-year period, a City or Town must implement one or more of the following measures during the next 5-year period and each subsequent 5-year period (this list is not exhaustive):

- Remove a dam
- Manage an impoundment to improve downstream flow regimes
- Build and manage a stormwater management structure to treat stormwater
- Build and manage a stormwater management structure to treat and recharge stormwater
- Incorporate enhanced stormwater recharge design into road improvement projects
- Retrofit an existing development with LID structures
- Implement stream channel modifications to improve aquatic habitat
- Purchase and permanently protect as natural open space land that includes recharge areas or riparian corridors
- Install a water supply well that allows an existing, streamside well to be replaced with one having less impacts
- Install and maintain a stream gage suitable for inclusion in USGS network for five years
- Accept financial responsibility for maintaining an existing USGS stream gage for five years
- Fund a study of a river, stream or sub-basin that will be useful for assessing water quantity, water quality or aquatic habitat issues
- Remove impervious area
- Develop and implement a regional cooperative water resources plan with other municipalities

- Abandon or reduce use of local water supplies that have streamflow impacts and replace/supplement with other supplies that have less or no impact
- Construct storage reservoirs to capture high flows to reduce flooding and release waters during low flow periods to improve streamflow
- Reduce nutrient loading from existing wastewater treatment facilities
- Reduce inflow/Infiltration within wastewater collection systems
- Reduce rate/frequency of combined stormwater/sanitary or sanitary sewer overflows.
- Reduce rate/frequency of Title 5 sanitary sewer variances.
- Create partnerships to advance implementation of BMP's with agricultural communities
- Fund a water resource coordinator position
- Establish Aquifer Protection Overlay Districts within the community
- Begin implementation of recommendations in IWRMP
- **Other ideas**

### **Incentives**

Cities and towns with Go with the Flow status are eligible for the following during the initial 5-year period:

**\*\*We need to discuss the best way to move forward with "Approval" for grant programs; communities would need assurances that if they were to qualify for the program there would be some guarantee that if they had an eligible project they would receive grant funding**

1. 0% SRF financing for eligible water, wastewater and stormwater projects. Districts and private water companies within the municipality with Go with the Flow status may also receive this reduced interest rate for projects in that municipality.
2. Approval for eligible water conservation grant funding.
3. Approval for water supply protection grants funding for eligible projects.
4. Approval for eligible 319 and 604B grant funding.
5. Approval for energy related grants for water, wastewater and stormwater facilities
6. Approval for Mass Environmental Trust grants
7. Additional compliance time (5 years) for certain WMA permit requirements
8. "Go with the flow" comprehensive permit which incorporates requirements of NDPES, both POTW and MS4, as well as WMA permits. (Incentive would allow for net streamflow benefit trade-offs to reduce overall costs and streamline existing processes)
9. **Need to identify all state grant programs available to municipalities for environmental projects**

For Cities and Towns implementing additional qualifying projects to maintain Go With the Flow status in subsequent 5-year periods the following incentives shall apply based on the community's design and construction costs of the qualifying projects (**Project costs incurred by the municipality and associated public agencies (districts) less grant funds received**):

#### Qualifying projects costing \$1 Million +

1. 0% SRF financing for eligible water, wastewater and stormwater projects.
2. Approval for eligible water conservation grants funding.
3. Approval for water supply protection grants funding for eligible projects.
4. Approval for eligible 319 and 604B grant funding.
5. Approval for energy related grants for water, wastewater and stormwater facilities
6. Approval for Mass Environmental Trust grants
7. Additional Compliance time (5 years) for certain WMA permit requirements

#### Qualifying projects costing \$500,000 but < \$1 million

1. 1% SRF financing for eligible water, wastewater and stormwater projects.
2. Approval for eligible water conservation grants funding.
3. Approval for water supply protection grants funding for eligible projects up to the cost of the qualifying project but no more than the maximum award.
4. Approval for eligible 319 and 604B grant funding up to the cost of the eligible project.
5. Approval for energy related grants for water, wastewater and stormwater facilities up to the cost of the qualifying project
6. Approval for Mass Environmental Trust grants
7. Additional Compliance time (5 years) for certain WMA permit requirements

#### Qualifying projects costing \$250,000 but <\$500,000

1. 1.5% SRF financing for eligible water, wastewater and stormwater projects.
2. Approval for eligible water conservation grants funding.
3. Approval for water supply protection grants funding for eligible projects up to the cost of the qualifying project but no more than the maximum award.
4. Approval for eligible 319 and 604B grant funding up to the cost of the eligible project.
5. Approval for energy related grants for water, wastewater and stormwater facilities up to the cost of the qualifying project
6. Approval for Mass Environmental Trust grants
7. Additional Compliance time (5 years) for certain WMA permit requirements

#### Qualifying projects costing < \$250,000

1. 1.75% SRF financing for eligible water, wastewater and stormwater projects.
2. Approval for eligible water conservation grants funding up to the cost of the qualifying project.
3. Approval for water supply protection grants funding for eligible projects up to the cost of the qualifying project but no more than the maximum award.
4. Approval for eligible 319 and 604B grant funding up to the cost of the qualifying project.
5. Approval for energy related grants for water, wastewater and stormwater facilities up to the cost of the qualifying project
6. Approval for Mass Environmental Trust grants up to the cost of the qualifying project

7. Additional Compliance time (5 years) for certain WMA permit requirements

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## Go with the Flow Program

### Example #1

Anytown, MA

Municipal public water system

Municipal sewer system with treatment plant

Municipal stormwater system

adopts LID Bylaw and completes Integrated Water Resources Management Plan and is approved for Go with the Flow status in 2012

### **Initial period 2012-2016**

in 2014 the Anytown water department receives 0% SRF funding for a \$5 million water treatment plant upgrade (Saves \$55,784/year or \$1,115,680 total vs standard 2% SRF Loan)

in 2016 the Anytown sewer department receives 319 grant funding for a \$100,000 stormwater treatment project with a 40% local match (Saves \$60,000 and helps with NPDES Stormwater permit compliance)

### **5 Year Period #2 2017-2021**

In 2018 Anytown water department purchases a 100- acre conservation restriction in the zone 2 of its water supply wells for \$1 million. The land includes aquifer recharge areas and a stream. A Water Supply Protection grant is used to cover \$500,000. This purchase qualifies the town for continuation in the Go With the Flow Program at a \$500,000 project level.

In 2019 Anytown sewer department receives 1% SRF financing for a sewer pump station rehab project of \$3 million

In 2020 Anytown receives an MET grant of \$25,000 for a waterway signage and kiosk project

In 2020 Anytown water department receives a water conservation grant of \$30,000 for a leak detection survey

In 2021 Anytown receives a 604B planning grant of \$50,000 to conduct a feasibility study of using runoff water from a spray park as a source of irrigation water for a nearby municipal park garden-a concept that was identified in the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan.

### **5-Year Period #3 2022-2026**

In 2023 Anytown installs rain gardens and other LID projects in the reconstruction of the parking lot at the High School. The LID portion of this project is valued at \$100,000 and qualifies the town for continuation in the Go With The Flow Program at a \$100,000 project level.

In 2024 the Anytown sewer department receives 1.75% SRF financing for I/I control projects valued at \$200,000.

In 2025 Anytown water department receives a 5-year extension to meet its WMA Permit requirement to develop a Large Water User Conservation Plan (regulatory relief)